

of the revenue from state tax on oil and gas. The board set up a board, similar to Community Impact Board, would allocate severance to the county, if the state tax exceeded \$34 million. The limit going to the state would increase to \$32 million the year and \$25 million the year most the fund could a year is \$8 million. Over 10 years the average severance tax collected was \$23 million.

Years the fund would not anything from severance said.

The state severance taxes \$7 million, but in 2001, \$39 million. Most severance tax goes into the General Fund. Money going to the counties would be in the bill only allows 2 percent administration of the

is being supported by are:

would allow county to participate with the insurance pool which could agencies \$3.2 million a

Counties would be compensated for juvenile court cliff expenses, like district court cliff expenses if another bill by Rep. Seitz is approved.

Seitz said the Weighted Pupil Unit, the amount of money per student from the state to local districts would probably remain the same for 2002 and 2003.

"I know higher education is not happy because they have 9,000 more students with no additional funding," he said.

Commissioner Cloyd Harrison said that if the legislature could straighten out the Centrally Assessed Property. It would be a big benefit to the county. Currently oil and gas companies' taxes are based on a estimate of what reserves they have in the well.

"A better way would be to assess a percentage of what is produced, they would not always be guessing," Seitz said.

Harrison said that nearly every appeal by an oil company of Centrally Assessed property results in a refund.

The legislative session is currently in recess for the Olympics, but will be back in session, Feb. 5.

Retort permit being negotiated

The Utah School and Institutional Trust Land Administration (SITLA) officials have determined that an oil shale retort located in southeastern Uintah County is not permitted and efforts are being made to resolve the issue.

The retort could have been at its present location in Cowboy Canyon for over a year.

Operator of the plant, owned by Oil Tech, Inc., has contacted SITLA and has entered into negotiations for a permit to operate the plant. There will likely be no criminal charges filed and the retort will be allowed to stay where it is until a lease is negotiated.

"We are accessing the damages to the one acre area, and we are negotiating a lease," said Dave Eddertson, SITLA.

Eddertson said he didn't know the dollar amount of the assessment of damages. The permitting of the plant will be done through the Division of Oil Gas and Mining.

County Planner Dale Peterson, said that in the last week, the company representative has requested a business license and a conditional use permit for the plant. The request will be heard by the Uintah County

Planning Board at its March 20 meeting.

The retort is located about 5 miles east of the American Gilsonite Plant on the Stanton Road and about a mile north of the road. This week Uintah County Commissioners said to pave the Stanton Road, would cost Uintah County over \$3 million, according to a recently completed engineering study. Uintah County has already spent considerable time and money to remove the native assault on the road and widen it. The road goes into Rangely, Colo. The development of the road would benefit the Oil Tech, Inc. oil shale retort and future mining operations of which Commissioner Swain has an interest. Before becoming a commissioner, he worked for the company who designed and built the retort. The company was unable to pay him for his work, so they gave him an interest in Oil Tech, Inc.

Commissioner Swain said that if the Stanton Road is going to be improved, the county will need help either from UDOT or federal funding. Because the asphalt has been removed from the road, cost of maintaining the road has increased.

es to Vernal

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ed at the entrance to e a picture of me hold- 1 next to the 'Vernal nes You' sign and ew it, we had several ing their cars to see ppening," Davis said.

"It was unbelievable. People were turning their cars around on Highway 40 coming back to see me and the torch."

Davis signed several autographs and took photos of individuals with the torch.

"If they didn't have a camera, I took their photo and mailed it to them," Davis said.

Besides being the marketing director for Ski Utah, Davis is the president of the Intermountain Professional Photographers Association and realizes how valuable memorable photographs are to people.

After taking photos and signing autographs at the Vernal sign, Davis and her family ate dinner in Vernal. Again, the torch was brought out and waiters, waitresses and customers gathered around to touch the Olympic torch.

"Running the torch was an incredible experience. One that I will treasure forever," Davis said. Like other torchbearers, she joins the ranks of inspirational people.

Davis was nominated to run the torch by her husband, Lyle. He



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